

rights for women to vote we, along with other of like mind, stood for emancipation and for the suffrage movements.

When our nation was involved in its Revolutionary War we mustered the militia on the church green and sent many of our own to answer the call to arms in our nation's revolution. Thirty three (33) of our young men never returned home. In a time of great national crisis we sent people again to stand for liberty in the Civil War. It is more than likely that our people have served in every war and conflict that our nation has fought, even to the point of our ladies' society making bandages and giving support to the troops. Such people of note are Militia: (1690) Lieut. John Hammond and Ensign Isaac Holmes. Rev. Jonathan Moore went as chaplain with the 1st company of militia answering the Lexington call. Captain Earl Clapp was at the Battle of Bunker Hill and rose in rank to Major. Major Elnathan Haskel was an aid to General George Washington and as such is shown in a painting hanging in the Capitol in Washington, D.C. portraying Borgoyne's Surrender.

As our nation was threatened from the north there were those who fought in the French and Indian Wars: Paul Sears and Joseph Doty. Those who served in Canada were Joseph Barlow, Charles Sturtevant and Earl Clapp. Then again in the War of 1812: Joseph Doty, Jonathan King and Samuel Cowing represented our church and community.

Missionaries, authors, educators, civil servants, physicians, lawyers and politicians have come from this beautiful white meeting house on the village green. Through these 300 years our mother church has given birth to four daughter congregations, Marion, Mattapoisett, Warcham and North Rochester Congregational Churches. Our vestry served for years as a town school and many people in the community still remember attending there as children.

We have hosted and still do many civic programs such as senior citizens, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. The men of our church formed an organization known as the Brotherhood that not only provided them fellowship, but served the community with a host of family entertainment opportunities and benevolent contributions to those who were in need.

Some of those who served in the following capacities were: Medicine: Dr. James Foster, (Note) The early pastors, namely Rev. Samuel Arnold and Timothy Ruggles, also aided their people by extracting teeth, doling out opium, saffron, older, yellow dock and snake root when their parishioners' own remedies failed.

Education: The first pastor, Samuel Arnold, along with his pastoral duties, taught young boys who wanted to attend Harvard College. (Rochester has always been known for its support of academics and in the early days it was generally the presiding Reverend who led the quest for education.)

Abraham Holmes, a lawyer and representative to the General Court, used his home office to teach law students, there being no law school available.

Rev. Jonathan Bigelow, who came in 1827, was responsible for the building of our present meetinghouse, a parsonage and the Rochester Academy. The latter a "noted and highly accredited institution gave instruction in all English studies, Latin, Greek and French languages and great attention was paid to the Moral Conduct, general deportment and intellectual improvement of its scholars." Many graduates became doctors, lawyers, teachers, ministers and judges, living beneficial lives in their own communities.

Henry Martyn Dexter, one of the first preceptors of Rochester Academy afterwards be-

came Nestor of Congregationalism. Our congregation has always been blessed with an abundance of teachers.

Although we are separate organizations to our governing and civil structures we have always been in congruence for the good of the community, our commonwealth and our nation. Whatever the need of the community we have tried to rise to the occasion and offer assistance.

TRIBUTE TO MR. BAUDILIO VILA

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2003

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate the accomplishments of a remarkable man, my friend, Mr. Baudilio Vila.

Born on May 20, 1932 in Camaguey, Cuba as the youngest of eight siblings, Baudilio quickly found his calling in the company of Mother Nature. As a very young man, Baudilio worked alongside his father and his siblings as they tilled the soil under the bright Cuban sun. The work was difficult and unending, but Baudilio proved to have a gift for cultivating the land.

At the age of 25 Baudilio married his beloved partner Dulce Diaz. Invigorated by both his newfound marital bliss and a new farm—a wedding present from his father-in-law—Baudilio redoubled his labors in order to provide for his new family. Unfortunately for the Vila family, beginning in 1959, Castro's communist tyranny stifled all attempts to create a small private business that would support a family. Nonetheless, Baudilio devoted his life to developing the farm until he could no longer bear Castro's constant repression of the human spirit. Unable to achieve the dreams he nurtured as a small boy under Castro's totalitarian regime, Baudilio Vila and family made the decision to seek freedom in the United States of America.

While it is never an easy decision to flee your homeland, it is often a simpler decision for those who make this daring journey in their youth. As yet unaffected by the responsibilities of family, young people are capable of making immense decisions with the confidence that often characterizes early adulthood. At the age of 48, well into middle age, Baudilio was fully cognizant of the risks he and his family were taking as they crossed the perilous Florida Straits. For Baudilio to start again with nothing at the age of 48, with a family to feed, takes a daring unknown to most of humankind.

In 1980, temporary facilities were set up in Miami's "Orange Bowl" to accommodate the enormous number of Cuban refugees seeking asylum in the United States of America. As the Vila family settled into this temporary housing, Baudilio's first thoughts were how could he help, how could he begin to provide for his family? Baudilio suggested he could help pick up the trash in the refugee camp. The authorities running the tent city said yes, he could help pick up the waste accumulating in the Orange Bowl. For his efforts, Baudilio would receive the sum of \$1 dollar for every large bag of trash he collected.

After departing the Orange Bowl, and upon being assimilated into South Florida, Baudilio and Dulce both took jobs as they attempted to

realize their American Dream. Initially, Baudilio tended to lawns with borrowed tools, while his wife cleaned houses every day of the week.

Never forgetting the connection to the land he felt as a farmer in Cuba and attempting to realize his dream of starting his own business, in 1982 Baudilio and the Vila family rented 4 acres of land. While the family continued to work in different types of gardening jobs, they were also collecting the plant seeds they would need to open their own agriculture business.

In the years that followed, the Vila family slowly began to expand their landscape contracting and growing business, Vila & Son, by buying equipment and obtaining small contracts with Miami-Dade and Broward Counties. After years of successfully striving to establish a growing business, Vila & Son was awarded the prestigious contract to service the grounds of Walt Disney World.

Vila & Son, begun on four acres of rented property, now has 462 employees in three district offices. Vila & Son annually surpasses \$34 million in sales in addition to planting 6000 plants every working day.

In recognition of their hard work and success, the Vila family has received many honors including the keys to Miami-Dade County and having May 18, 2002 proclaimed "Vila & Son Day."

Baudilio Vila, born in Cuba in 1932, a refugee who arrived in the United States at age 48 with nothing more than his dream of living in freedom, and later an extraordinarily successful entrepreneur, was invited by President George W. Bush to his inauguration in January, 2001.

Baudilio Vila is an extraordinary human being who has lived a remarkable life. I am proud to call Baudilio Vila and his family my friends and I am pleased to share Baudilio's remarkable story with the United States Congress.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 1588, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2003

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member rises in opposition to this motion to instruct House conferees to H.R. 1588. Certainly, this Member has no objections to expediting citizenship for non-citizen members serving in U.S. armed services and supports efforts to provide appropriate incentives for a very small percentage of the few non-citizens who meet established requirements to join our professional military forces. However, in granting citizenship to these qualified men and women, it is not necessary or desirable to also grant priority to their parents, spouses, and children. And it is certainly not appropriate to waive the requirement that such family members financially support themselves in the U.S. Unfortunately, the provisions in the Senate-passed version of H.R. 1588, which this motion instructs House conferees to accept, would have that effect.

Through the provisions, the spouses, children under the age of 21, and parents of men